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Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 00786 180630Z

17
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-10 MC-02 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00 IO-10

OMB-01 /098 W
---------- 076066
R 151020Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5249
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 0786

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, MPOL, NL
SUBJECT: DEFMIN ON F-104 REPLACEMENT

REF: THE HAGUE 0755

1. IN ADDITION TO GENERAL STATEMENT ON F-104 REPLACEMENT (REFTEL), DEFMIN VREDELING REPLIED TO ANUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ON THE AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT ISSUE DURING HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE THE SECOND CHAMBER FEB 13. FOLLOWING ARE SELECTED STATEMENTS:

2. REGARDING HIS RECOMMENDATION TO THE CABINET, VREDELING SAID, IF HE CANNOT RECOMMEND A CHOICE IN FEBRUARY, "I EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO IN MARCH."

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3. REGARDING SMART BOMB (SEE THE HAGUE 754), HE SAID

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ALL OF THE AIRPLANES UNDER CONSIDERATION COULD USE
THEM, A DECISION ON WHETHER TO BUYTHEM WOULD BE MADE
LATER, AND NO MONEY EARMARKED FOR F-104 REPLACEMENT
WOULD BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

4. FINANCING OF THE NEW AIRCRAFT--AGREES THAT
2.3 BILLION GUILDERS SHOULD COVER COST OF 102 AIRCRAFT,
I.E. BASE PRICE OF 15 MILLION GUILDERS PER PLANE AND
22.5 MILLION WHEN SPARES AND GROULD EQUIPMENT ADDED
IN. (FIGURES BASED ON 1974 PRICES.)

5. HE DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF WHETHER USAF PLANS BASE
F-16'S AT SOESTERBERG IN NETHERLANDS, AND GOT ONLY
LAUGH OF DAY WHEN HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK A
DUTCH DECISION NOT TO BUY THE F-16 "WOULD PUT GENERAL
DYNAMICS ON ITS BACK." HE POINTED OUT THAT G-D
WAS A CONGLOMERATE WHICH WAS EVEN INVOLVED IN THE COAL
BUSINESS AND SAID THE COMPANY COULD NOT BE EXPECTED
TO DO ALL OF ITS BUSINESS "ON ITS BACK."
GOULD

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: MASS, MPOL, NL, (VREDELING, HENDRIKUS)
To: STATE
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